

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6, 8-10, and 13-22 are now pending in this application, with Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, and 18-22 being independent. Claims 3-6, 8-10, 13, 15, and 17 have been amended and Claims 18-22 are newly-presented herein. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 13-17 are allowed. Although minor changes have been made to Claims 13, 15, and 17, these changes are not believed to affect the allowability of the claims. Thus, Claims 13-17 are believed to remain in condition for allowance.

In addition, Claims 3-6 and 8-10 have been indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In order to expedite allowance, Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 have been rewritten into independent form and are believed to be in condition for allowance. It should be noted that the phrase “and the time for waiting exceeds a predetermined period of time” has been deleted from Claim 8. However, this phrase is not believed to be necessary for patentability. Newly-presented Claims 18-22 are method claims based on apparatus Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10, respectively, and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons. Claims 5 and 9 depend from Claims 4 and 8, respectively, and are

also believed to be in condition for allowance

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and solely to expedite allowance, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is deemed moot.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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